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MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager EMD

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: January 12, 2021

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 11/24/20 BY COUNCILOR CHAU
REQUEST CITY MANAGER INVESTIGATE UPGRADING SCHOOL STREET IN THE AREA BETWEEN LIBERTY AND SHAW STREETS IN ORDER TO SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC

City staff performed a site visit to School Street and reviewed ordinances and recent crash reports for the location. School Street between Liberty Street and Shaw Street is a narrow road (28 feet), with parking on both sides. Narrow streets with parking on both sides slow down speeds as vehicles are not comfortable traveling fast on the narrow lanes when there is traffic. While no speeding was observed during the site visit, School Street has no curves or traffic control devices from Liberty Street to C Street which makes it feasible for motorist to speed when there is minimal traffic.

The recent crash history at this location revealed that most of the accidents in this span occur at the intersections. Most of the accidents occurred at the intersection of School Street and Shaw Street, a 2-way stop intersection. During a 12-month period, there were 5 crashes at the intersection, which meets the MUTCD requirement for a 4-way intersection. During the site visit, several vehicles would stop when traveling through the intersection on School Street anticipating a 4 way stop intersection. While a stop sign is not an effective speed calming measure, upgrading this intersection to a 4-way stop intersection will address the crashes and improve safety.

A 60 day trial to upgrade the intersection of School Street and Shaw Street to a 4-way stop intersection will be before the City Council at the January 12, 2021 meeting. This span of School Street will also be in consideration for traffic calming measures when a traffic calming policy is implemented.

AH/ah
cc: Alan Heredia, Assistant Transportation Engineer